



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner

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News Release

January 27, 2012

CLEVELAND NAMED ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Education Commissioner Dr. Tom Kimbrell today announced the hiring of Jared Cleveland, a proven and multi-talented school leader, as assistant commissioner for the Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services.

Cleveland has served as the superintendent of the Lavaca district in Sebastian County for six years. He'll continue in that position through the end of the school year and start in his new role at the Department of Education July 1.

"Jared has a complete understanding of how schools operate," Kimbrell said. "He knows school district issues well and has been directly involved in many of the complex policy and financial problems that affect them. We are fortunate to have someone of his caliber who is experienced with the intricacies of Arkansas's school finance system."

At Lavaca, Cleveland has worked hard to improve test scores, expand pre-K and establish a model student health center. Previously, he gained experience in the Magazine district in Logan County where he served as superintendent, high school principal, head boys basketball coach, head girls softball coach, assistant football coach, and social studies teacher. He is pursuing a doctorate in education from Harding University.

"I have dedicated my life to educating students in Arkansas, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue this work at the state level," Cleveland said. "I look forward to working with Commissioner Kimbrell and his team and with school leaders across the state. It's an exciting time to be in education."

Cleveland will replace Kathleen Crain who has served as assistant commissioner for finance in an interim capacity since October, 2011. Crain was filling in after the former assistant commissioner, Bill Goff, left for a similar position in the Pulaski County Special School District. She will return to her former position as director of financial applications and support.

A photo of Cleveland is available at <http://www.arkansased.org/about/releases.html>

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